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Letter dated 20 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 August 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gürcan TÜRKOĞLU
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 20 August 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 4 and 12 August 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot delegate at the United Nations (A/52/1004-S/1998/721, A/52/1016-S/1998/746), which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region of Nicosia".

As similar unfounded allegations of so-called airspace violations have been rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 6 August 1998 (A/52/1012-S/1998/734, annex), I shall confine myself to reiterating that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State. The Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot side's campaign of blatant misinformation is paralleled by a militarization effort on a large scale. The Greek Cypriot daily Simerini reported on 10 August 1998 that, in addition to the planned deployment of the sophisticated S-300 missile system, the Greek Cypriot administration is engaged in negotiations with the Russian Federation for the purchase of medium-range missiles, long-range mobile artillery, tanks and armoured vehicles. It is reported that the medium-range missiles would be deployed as soon as agreement was reached between the parties. Meanwhile, Jane's Defence Weekly of 12 August 1998 reported that the Commander of the Russian Federation's air-defence training centre at Ashuluk has confirmed that 84 members of the Greek Cypriot National Guard concluded three months' training in the operation of the S-300 missile systems.

The decision of the Greek Cypriot leadership to expand military expenditures is backed by a further increase in the defence levy approved on 5 August 1998 by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives. It was also reported in the Greek Cypriot daily Filelefttheros of 12 August 1998 that matters related to the further strengthening of the "joint military doctrine" between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration were taken up at a recent meeting between the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Yannakis Omirou, and the Greek Deputy Chief of Staff, General Fetini. Reportedly, Mr. Omirou stated after the meeting that ways and means would be sought to enable the further strengthening of the "joint military doctrine", which was not static and had to be reviewed over time. On 9 August 1998, the Greek Cypriot spokesman, Mr. Stylianides, declared that, "stretching from Evro (Meriç) and the Aegean to Dherinia, a nation stands ready for war."

The Greek Cypriot militarization campaign has reached unprecedented levels, which clearly threatens peace and stability in the region. It is crucial that the international community strongly urge the Greek cypriot leadership to

abandon its aggressive stance and warmongering and move on to the path of reconciliation in order to build bridges of trust and cooperation between the two states in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus